



THE RICOCHET

28900 E. Argo Rd. Grain Valley, MO 64029 (816)-229-4448

<http://www.mdc.state.mo.us/areas/ranges/lakecity>



Deaf But Not Dumb

As hunting season approaches most of us will remember those days afield or in the blind when old Duke seemed to have developed selective hearing and did not respond to your series of normal voice commands. You spent most of the day yelling at him at the top of your voice.

The real problem could be that long term exposure to gun fire may be damaging his hearing. We already know that gun fire damages our hearing and our dog's ears are much more sensitive to sound than ours.

With a dog's optimum hearing level being about 2.5 times greater than humans, gun shots or even thunder can create hearing loss. In a hearing comparison of hunting Labradors and non-hunting Labradors, the hunting Labrador requires command sounds to be three times greater than non-hunting dogs. What this research has created are questions of where our four legged hunting friends need to be placed while in the field and blind and what devices need to be developed to protect their hearing. Until then put a little more distance between them and the gun blast.

Preparing Your Archery Equipment

Archery season begins September 15, 2004. Are you and your equipment prepared for another grueling season of

bowhunting? It has been a long off season, but now is the time to get your equipment ready. This can be as simple or as complex as you would like to make it. I like to make a check list of all the things needed to be done prior to the season opener.

By September 1st you should already be practicing with your broadheads. This is very important, because you will be using broadheads when you hunt. You owe it to yourself, and the game you hunt to be as accurate as possible.

Practice is the best way to get your skills fine tuned for hunting season. A person who does not practice, does not even belong out in the woods. Do not quit practicing when the season opens! This is the most important time of year to practice. Different clothes and masks all affect your accuracy. For example, I was shooting dead on at thirty yards until I put a head net on. I went from shooting two inch groups to pulling my arrows left. I actually had to re-sight in to compensate for the mask.

Good luck to everyone this year!

A New Look at Trapping

Most people you might talk to would agree that trapping had its hay day in the 19th century. In today's world there is no need to trap.

I recently attended the 45th Annual National Trappers Association event at the Boone County Fairgrounds. To my surprise I find out that trapping all around the country is still a valued sport

among all ages. The fairgrounds was teaming with people young and old, all interested in trapping and learning more about their favorite sport. Many of the trappers were very anxious to share their knowledge with other people during the four days of demonstrations.

One of the most amazing things I noticed during the event was the number of young people at the event. I spoke to a few youths about trapping during one of the demonstrations. The youths had trapped for two years and enjoyed running traps before and after school. When I ask why they trapped, they replied, Aits fun and we earn extra money.@ While listing to them, I thought back to when I was young trapper and remembered those were the exact reasons I trapped.

Like many things in the world, trapping is constantly changing and evolving. Vendors at the show had new types of traps for specific species that were less harsh than the old steel traps. One of those traps is know as, Lil'Griz. It is a trap specifically developed to Arestrain@a raccoon. The idea of

restraint type traps has proven to be less traumatic to the animal, which has resulted in positive response and acceptance by the general public for animal control.

Another type of restraint item is the Cable Restraint. While Missouri has just adapted the idea for the 2004-2005 Trapping season, other state such as Wisconsin have had a high degree of success when using them for animal control. One of the great things about cable restraint is that it is safer than steel traps, no more pinched fingers, and it is less than half the cost to get started.

So as you can see trapping=s hay day may have been several centuries ago, however popularity among rural youth is growing. As varmint populations continue to rise and prices for fur

continue to maintain a reasonable price on the world market, trapping will be a part of Missouri's past and future.

Safety Corner

If it=s been awhile since you've been out to Lake City Range, you may notice some changes to the range. At each booth you=ll see a yellow chain. This chain is for safety purposes. After the range officer calls a cease fire, he will instruct everyone to lock the chain across the booth. This is to prevent people from entering their booth while people are downrange. Make sure you keep your targets out on the bench so you will not be tempted to re-enter your booth during a cease fire.

Within the last two months, we have also decided to get rid of our staple

guns. New targets have been selected for use at the range. These targets are made of self-healing foam that lasts much longer than our previous targets. Instead of using staples, these targets work much better with orange target anchors supplied by the range.

Election Alert

Do you realize the impact that 70 million dollars has on the economy and politicians. So much so that this year both presidential candidates are making sportsmen a major focus of their campaign.

Both national candidates and local candidates are having press photos taken at shooting ranges, fishing events, and National Parks.

We as outdoorsmen and voters must seriously look at these Anew friends@ we have and let them know what they need to do to earn our votes. If you want information go to websites such as National Rifle Association at

www.nra.org, or National Shooting Sports at www.nssf.org. Get out and vote!

Range Hours

ATTENTION:

STARTING 15 September 2004

OUR HOURS WILL BE

Noon-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday B Sunday

Monday-Tuesday we are still available for group use by prior arrangements on a first come first serve basis. There is currently about a two week advance notice needed

to get on the schedule. Shooting opportunities are limited in this area and we fill up quickly. Call the Range at (816)229-4448 to arrange for your group times.

Range Staff

Supervisor	David Wyatt
Range Officer	Steven Elliott
Range Assistant	Chantz Brown
Weekend Hourly	Mark Jamieson

Calendar of Events

September 4	Ladies Firearm Safety Lake City Range
September 8	Bow Shooting Lake City Range
September 11	Hunter Education Lake City Range
September 12	Youth Deer Hunt Lake City Range
September 14	Basic Taxidermy Lake City Range
September 18	Trap Class Lake City Range
September 21	Basic Bird Watching Lake City Range
September 23	Archery Repair Lake City Range

September 25	National Hunting And Fishing Day	September 16	Fly Tying Part I Parma Woods
September 25	Sight-in Assistance Lake City Range	September 17	Fly Tying Part II Parma Woods
October 2	Cable Restraint Lake City Range	September 19	Elevated Archery Parma Woods
October 6	Archery Hunting Lake City Range	September 22	Bird Watching Parma Woods
October 9	Hunter Education Lake City Range	September 23	Hunter Education Parma Woods
October 14	Fall Turkey Class Lake City Range	September 24	Youth Squirrel Clinic Parma Woods
October 16	Basic Duck Hunting Lake City Range	September 25	Youth Squirrel Hunt Parma Woods
October 17	Beginning Muzzleloader Lake City Range	September 29	Archery Deer Seminar Parma Woods
October 20	Deer Sight-in Hours Lake City Range	October 2	Hunter Education Parma Woods
<u>Parma Wood Range</u>		October 5	Fall Turkey Seminar Parma Woods
September 2	Reloading Part II Parma Woods	October 6	Dutch Oven Cooking Parma Woods
September 8	Broad Head Tuning Parma Woods	October 7	Beginning Archery Parma Woods
September 11	Hunter Education Parma Woods	October 9	Orienteering Parma Woods
September 13	.22 Rifle Plinking Parma Woods	October 9	Hiking at Parma Parma Woods
		October 13	Camping Class Parma Woods

October 14	Basic Muzzleloading Parma Woods
October 16	Muzzleloader Shoot Parma Woods
October 20	Camp Fire Building Parma Woods
October 23	Hunter Education Parma Woods
October 30	Trapping Clinic Parma Woods